

FILE

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

30 JUNE 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~

WATCH COMMITTEE
Findings of 29 June Special Meeting

Premier Qasim of Iraq laid claim to the newly independent Sheikhdom of Kuwait on 25 June. Kuwait has responded by declaring an emergency, alerting its troops and announcing its determination to defend its territory. The UK Ambassador in Baghdad has warned Iraq of British determination to honor its commitment to defend Kuwait if requested. Saudi Arabia had declared that any aggression against Kuwait will be considered an aggression against Saudi Arabia and is moving troops to its borders with Iraq. Iran, the UAR and other Arab States have declared their support for Kuwait. Public Soviet reaction has been limited to a factual report of Qasim's 25 June statement, and there is no evidence of any Soviet or other Bloc support or encouragement of Qasim's position.

An Iraqi military buildup of sufficient size for an attack on Kuwait is planned and may be underway around Basra about 40 miles from the Kuwait border. Qasim's forces could be in position to launch sudden military action against Kuwait at any time after 30 June. Qasim may attack Kuwait despite opposition from the rest of the Arab world if he feels he can occupy Kuwait city before effective British support can reach the area. In this case, Saudi Arabia will almost certainly become involved, and the possibility exists that other Arab states and Iran may become embroiled as well. Dissident groups in Iraq may seize this occasion to launch a coup or attempt to assassinate Qasim.

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Soviet military intervention in this situation is highly unlikely.

2. Iraqi forces, [redacted] preparations for a build-up around Basra. [redacted] 50X1

3. Kuwait itself remains quiet, but a major demonstration against Iraq is scheduled for tomorrow. Iran has stated its determination to maintain its food shuttle, by water, into Kuwait. [redacted] 50X1

4. In Baghdad, [redacted] a coup against Qasim is imminent [redacted] 50X1

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1. **Tshombé continues intransigent**

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The Katangans now apparently are convinced that their "independence" can be maintained. The success of the UN's maneuvers to convene the Congolese parliament is seriously threatened. 50X1

2. **Venezuelan police expect further uprisings in next few days.**

They believe Monday's short-lived revolt in the provincial city of Barcelona has "larger extension and strength."

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3. **Husayn makes first move toward reform of Jordanian government.**

On Wednesday he shook up his cabinet to eliminate its most unsavory members. Husayn wants to hold general elections soon, but has been deterred by fear that Nasir would interfere clandestinely, as he did with some effectiveness in the 1956 elections.

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NOTES

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A. There have been no major developments concerning Laos.

C. The US Embassy in Rio de Janeiro notes moves by the Quadros government to establish control of the press. [REDACTED]

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D. Salazar is to make a major pronouncement in Lisbon today.

E. The landing of an Afghan jet bomber in Pakistan now appears to have resulted from bad navigation rather than defection. [REDACTED]

LATE NOTE

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F. First press reports on Salazar's speech (as of 0740) indicate that he bluntly rejected the UN appeal to stop the fighting in Angola, and criticized the US for not supporting him.

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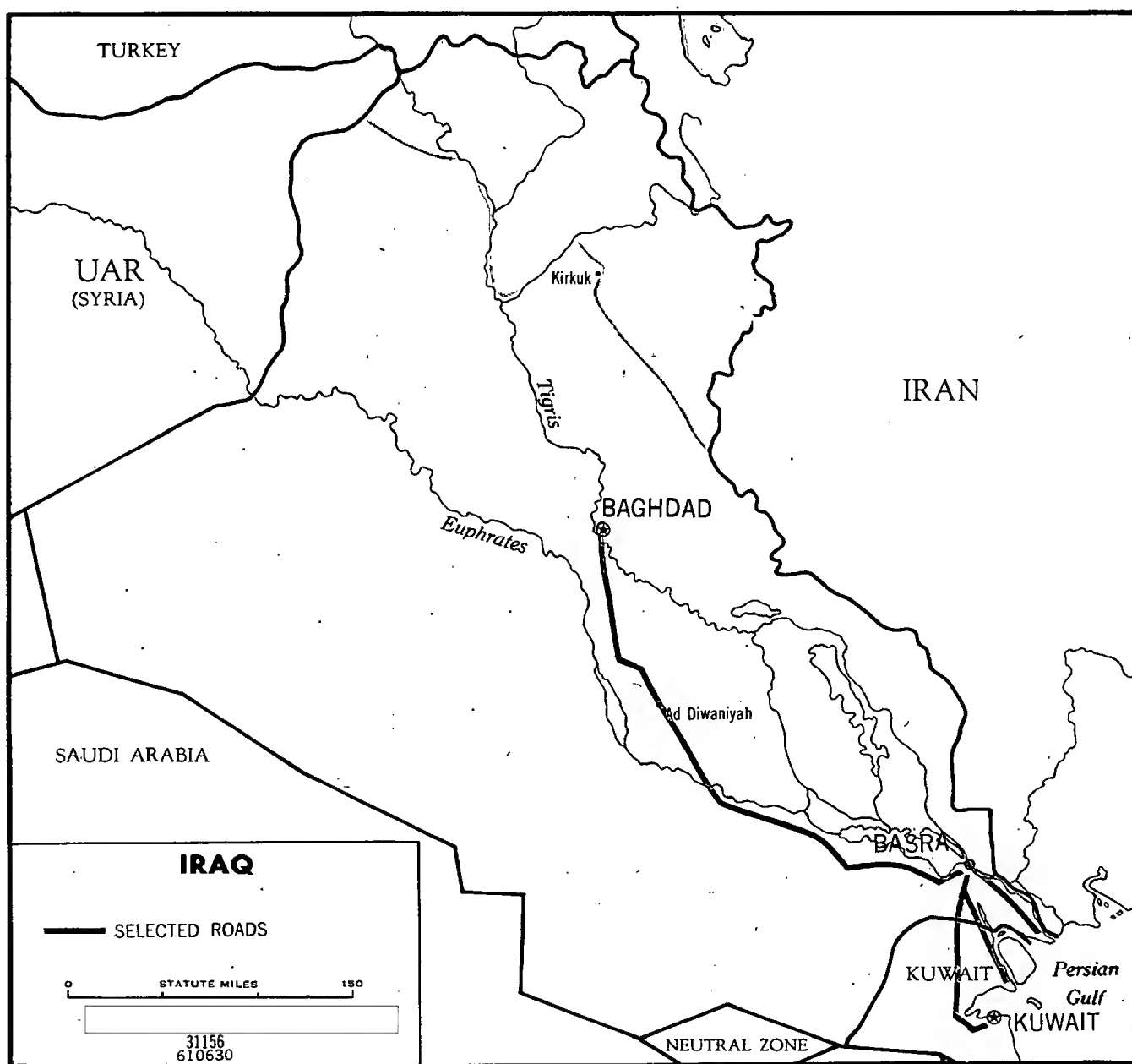
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